

February 4, 2004

The Honorable Marc Spitzer and  
Members of the Corporation Commission  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Chairman Spitzer and Commission Members:

On behalf of the Coconino County Board of Supervisors, I would like to express our strong support for biomass energy plants in Arizona and for the actions required by the Commission to support their development.

We see many advantages to these facilities. As we work to thin our forests to improve forest health and protect communities from catastrophic fire, biomass plants can provide a means to dispose of the large volume of small diameter trees that will result from thinning projects. In addition, these facilities can provide an additional source of renewable energy for this growing state.

The Board of Supervisors, therefore, urges the Arizona Corporation Commission to:

1. Support the effort to provide for a portion of Arizona's renewable energy to come from biomass (wood and wood waste products) energy;
2. Extend the Arizona Environmental Portfolio Standard (EPS) beyond the current sunset date of 2012 to attract investment and insure the long range viability of biomass projects;
3. Consider expansion of the renewable energy requirement above the current standard; and
4. Develop other rules and regulations necessary to advance the framework of a biomass energy industry in the State of Arizona.

The Coconino County Board of Supervisors will consider a formal resolution on this topic at its meeting of February 17, 2004, and will submit that resolution to the Corporation Commission.

Sincerely,

Matthew G. Ryan  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

**COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2004-\_\_\_\_\_**

**IN SUPPORT FOR BIOMASS ENERGY FOR THE ARIZONA  
CORPORATION COMMISSION**

WHEREAS the Arizona Corporation Commission has requested that interested entities show support for biomass energy plants, the adoption of an indefinite extension of the Arizona Environmental Portfolio Standards (EPS) beyond the current sunset date of 2012, and the development of rules and regulations necessary to advance the framework for a biomass energy industry in the State of Arizona; and

WHEREAS Coconino County, hereinafter referred to as "County," recognizes the poor health of area forests, as evidenced by the probability of catastrophic wildfire; and

WHEREAS the County and our forests are in the midst of a continuing drought and on-going insect epidemic; and

WHEREAS the County understands community values-at-risk include homes and infrastructure, public health and peace-of-mind, safety of citizens, residents, and firefighters, business and financial interests, recreational opportunities, watershed values, scenic quality, emotional/spiritual attachments, and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS a healthy forest is critical to the health of our community; and

WHEREAS renewable energy is both a practical and achievable goal; and

WHEREAS the County wishes to act in concert with others throughout the State; and

WHEREAS adoption of this resolution demonstrates leadership, focuses attention on the problem, promotes efforts to address the issue, and supports the on-going efforts of the both the County and our partners to resolve this problem;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Coconino County urge the Arizona Corporation Commission to:

1. Support the effort to provide for a portion of Arizona's renewable energy to come from biomass (wood and wood waste products) energy;
2. Extend the Arizona Environmental Portfolio Standard (EPS) beyond the current sunset date of 2012;
3. Consider expansion of the renewable energy requirement above the current standard; and
4. Develop other rules and regulations necessary to advance the framework for a biomass energy industry in the State of Arizona.

SIGNED AND SEALED this \_\_\_\_ day of February, 2004.

COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Matthew G. Ryan, Chairman

Attest: Clerk of the Board

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Deputy Clerk